

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims. The status of each claim is indicated. Claims 1-45 are pending with claims 1, 10, 24, 34 and 35 being the independent claims. Amendments are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ text or in [[double brackets]]. No new matter is added by these amendments.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a pressure vessel capable of being opened to receive a user and closed to create a hermetic seal;

said pressure vessel including an on-board interface capable of enabling a user to control one or more functions of said pressure vessel, a pressure transducer capable of monitoring air pressure inside said pressure vessel, and a user sensor capable of measuring one or more parameters of a user's body condition, said user sensor being in electrical communication with said on-board interface;

a blower capable of removing air from said pressure vessel; and

a proportioning valve capable of controlling the amount of air allowed to enter into said pressure vessel,

said on-board interface configured to initiate a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning upon initiation by a user at a first time period, said session including a predetermined program configured to regulate cyclic variations of altitude within said pressure vessel,

said on-board interface configured to cause a change to said predetermined program at a second time period based on a signal received from said user sensor.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said on-board interface is placed in electrical communication with said blower, said proportioning valve and said pressure transducer, said on-board interface configured to initiate said session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning by cyclically operating said blower to create a negative pressure in said pressure vessel and by cyclically operating said proportioning valve to introduce air into said pressure vessel to reduce the negative pressure up to the point of atmospheric pressure.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said on-board interface is configured to monitor signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value associated with a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude-within said pressure vessel.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said on-board interface is configured to modify said predetermined program regulating the cyclic variations in altitude within the pressure vessel if the at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said predetermined program.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said session is a first session, said on-board interface is configured to cause said first session to be stopped and a second session different than said first session to be initiated during said second time period based on a signal received from said user sensor.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein an external controller is in electrical communication with said blower, said proportioning valve and said pressure transducer, said external controller configured to initiate said session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning by cyclically operating said blower to create a negative pressure in said pressure vessel and by cyclically operating said proportioning valve to introduce air into said pressure vessel to reduce the negative pressure up to the point of atmospheric pressure.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said user sensor is in electrical communication with said external controller, said external controller configured to monitor signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude conditioning.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said external controller is configured to modify the predetermined program regulating the cyclic variations in altitude if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said predetermined program.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said predetermined program is a first predetermined program, said external controller being configured to select a second predetermined program for regulating the cyclic variations in altitude conditioning when said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said first predetermined program.

10. (Previously Presented) A system for cyclic variations in altitude conditioning comprising:

- a pressure vessel unit;

- a kiosk controller; and

- a master controller,

- said pressure vessel unit including a pressure vessel, a blower, and a proportioning valve,

- said pressure vessel capable of being opened to receive a user and closed to create a hermetic seal, said pressure vessel including an on-board interface capable of enabling a user to control one or more functions of said pressure vessel unit, a pressure transducer capable of monitoring air pressure inside said pressure vessel, and a user sensor capable of measuring one or more parameters of a user's body condition,

- said user sensor being in electrical communication with said on-board interface, said on-board interface configured to initiate a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning upon initiation by a user at a first time period, said session including a predetermined program configured to regulate cyclic variations of altitude within said pressure vessel unit, said on-board interface configured to cause a change to said predetermined program at a second time period based on a signal received from said user sensor,

- said blower capable of removing air from said pressure vessel,

said proportioning valve capable of controlling the amount of air allowed to enter into said pressure vessel;

said kiosk controller including a first software program, and an information processing system capable of executing said first software program, said kiosk controller being in electrical communication with said master controller and said on-board interface,

said master controller including a second software program and an information processing system capable of executing said second software program, said master controller being in electrical communication with said on-board controller of said pressure vessel unit.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said on-board interface is placed in electrical communication with said blower, said proportioning valve and said pressure transducer, said on-board interface being configured to initiate said session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning by cyclically operating said blower to create a negative pressure in said pressure vessel and by cyclically operating said proportioning valve to introduce air into said pressure vessel to reduce the negative pressure up to the point of atmospheric pressure.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said on-board interface is configured to monitor signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value associated with a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude within said pressure vessel unit.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said on-board interface is configured to modify said predetermined program regulating the cyclic variations in altitude within said pressure vessel unit if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said-predetermined program.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said session is a first session, said on-board interface is configured to cause said first session to be stopped and a second

session different than said first session to be initiated during said second time period based on a signal received from said user sensor.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said kiosk controller is in electrical communication with said blower, said proportioning valve and said pressure transducer, said kiosk controller being configured to initiate said session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning by cyclically operating said blower to create a negative pressure in said pressure vessel and by cyclically operating said proportioning valve to introduce air into said pressure vessel to reduce the negative pressure up to the point of atmospheric pressure.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 15, wherein said user sensor is in electrical communication with said kiosk controller, said kiosk controller configured to monitor signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude conditioning.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein said kiosk controller is configured to modify said predetermined program regulating the cyclic variations in altitude if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said predetermined program.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein said predetermined program is a first predetermined program, said kiosk controller is configured to select a second predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficiently outside a predetermined range for said first predetermined program.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said information processing system executing said first software program is configured to receive signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body

condition is sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude, and making such modification if such measured parameter is sufficient.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said information processing system executing said first software program is configured to receive signals from said user sensor to determine whether at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a selection of an alternate predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude, and making such alternate selection if such measured parameter is deemed sufficient.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said master controller is located in a separate facility from said kiosk controller and said pressure vessel unit.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said master controller is configured to store user data entered into and stored on at least one of said kiosk controller or said on-board interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 22, wherein said master controller is configured to make said data stored on said master controller available to a second kiosk controller in electrical communication with said master controller, such that a user can use said stored data to operate of a second pressure vessel unit in electrical communication with said second kiosk controller.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a user's use of a system for cyclic variations in altitude conditioning comprising:

making a system for cyclic variations in altitude conditioning available to a user, said system including,

a pressure vessel unit,

a kiosk controller, and

a master controller,

said pressure vessel unit including,

- a pressure vessel capable of being opened to receive a user and closed to create a hermetic seal,

- said pressure vessel including an on-board interface capable of enabling a user to control one or more functions of said pressure vessel unit, a pressure transducer capable of monitoring air pressure inside said pressure vessel, and a user sensor capable of measuring one or more parameters of a user's body condition, said user sensor being in electrical communication with said on-board interface, said on-board interface configured to initiate a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning upon initiation by a user at a first time period, said session including a predetermined program configured to regulate cyclic variations of altitude within said pressure vessel unit, said on-board interface configured to cause a change to said predetermined program at a second time period based on a signal received from said user sensor,

- a blower capable of removing air from said pressure vessel, and

- a proportioning valve capable of controlling the amount of air allowed to enter into said pressure vessel,

said kiosk controller including,

- a first software program, and

- an information processing system capable of executing said first software program,

- said kiosk controller being in electrical communication with master controller and said on-board interface,

said master controller including,

- a second software program, and

- an information processing system capable of executing said second software program, and

- said master controller being in electrical communication with said on-board controller; and

allowing said user to pay for a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning in said system via the entry of payment information relating to the user into said kiosk controller.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

transferring to said master controller, data associated with a user stored on said kiosk controller.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein said master controller is located in a different facility from said kiosk controller.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the system is a first system, the kiosk controller is a first kiosk controller, the method further comprising:

allowing a user to utilize a second system including a second kiosk controller by uploading data associated with said user from said master controller to said second kiosk controller.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the system is a first system, the kiosk controller is a first kiosk controller, the method further comprising:

allowing a user to utilize a second system including a second kiosk controller by providing data associated with the user entered by said user at said first system available for access from said master controller by said second kiosk controller.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

verifying a user's completion of a set-up session; and
after the verifying, allowing the user to initiate a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:

accessing data related to a user from at least one of said kiosk controller or said master controller; and

based on said data, determining a suitable program for the user based at least in part upon the user's history of use.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25 , further comprising:

monitoring one or more parameters of the user's body condition to determine whether at least one value of a measured parameter of the user's body condition is at a level sufficient to warrant a modification of said predetermined program regulating cyclic variations in altitude conditioning.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

modifying said predetermined program regulating the cyclic variations in altitude conditioning if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level [[s]]outside a predetermined range for said predetermined program.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein the predetermined program is a first predetermined program, the method further comprising:

selecting a second predetermined program for regulating the cyclic variations in altitude conditioning if said at least one value of a measured parameter of a user's body condition is at a level outside a predetermined range for said first predetermined program.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for providing cyclic variations in altitude conditioning, comprising:

classifying a user into one of a predetermined number of body type categories;

selecting a cyclic variations in altitude conditioning program based upon the user's categorization;

executing a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning within a pressure vessel, said session including a predetermined program configured to cause rapid transitions between simulated altitudes in said pressure vessel according to cycles determined by said predetermined program;

measuring via a user sensor at least one parameter of a user's body condition during said session; and

determining whether a value of said at least one measured parameter is within a predetermined range, and if within said predetermined range, allowing said predetermined program to continue, and if not within said predetermined range, modifying said predetermined program in real time, said modification based at least in part upon the user's categorization and said value of said at least one measured parameter.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for providing cyclic variations in altitude conditioning, comprising:

classifying a user into one of a predetermined number of body type categories;

selecting a cyclic variations in altitude conditioning program based upon the user's categorization;

executing a first session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning within a pressure vessel, said first session including a first predetermined program configured to cause rapid transitions between simulated altitudes in said pressure vessel according to cycles determined by said first predetermined program;

measuring via a user sensor at least one parameter of a user's body condition during said first session; and

determining whether a value of said at least one measured parameter is within a predetermined range, and if within said predetermined range, allowing said first predetermined program to continue, and if not within said predetermined range, initiating in real time a second session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning within said pressure vessel, said second session being different than said first session, said second session including a second predetermined program configured to cause rapid transitions between simulated altitudes in said pressure vessel according to cycles determined by said second predetermined program-based upon the user's categorization and current body condition.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising:
prior to the executing the session, receiving payment information via an on-board interface coupled to said pressure vessel.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 34, further comprising:
prior to the executing said session, receiving payment information via a kiosk controller coupled to said pressure vessel.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, further comprising:
prior to the executing said first session, receiving payment information via an on-board interface coupled to said pressure vessel.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, further comprising:
prior to the executing said first session, receiving payment information via a kiosk controller coupled to said pressure vessel.
40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said pressure vessel includes an opening defined in a wall of said pressure vessel and said pressure vessel includes a panel disposed over said opening, said panel configured to rupture when a pressure within said pressure vessel exceeds a predetermined threshold pressure.
41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said on-board interface is configured to receive user payment information to pay for a session of cyclic variations in altitude conditioning.
42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said on-board interface is disposed inside said pressure vessel.
43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said on-board interface is disposed inside said pressure vessel.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further including:
prior to the classifying, receiving data entered by a user; and
prior to the executing said session, executing a set-up session in said pressure vessel.
45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further including:
prior to the classifying, receiving data entered by a user; and
prior to the executing said first session, executing a set-up session in said pressure vessel.